Sri C. H. Kanaran :—" The North Malabar Federation of Co-operative Societies has submitted a memorandum to the Government stating that due to the interest that they have to pay, to the loss of weight in the transport of grains, they have had to run into losses and they requested the Government to remedy the situation. They had also asked for a refund of the heavy interest that had been collected from them. May I know, Sir, whether the Government will consider the memorandum sympathetically? "

The Hon. Sri D. Sanjivayya :—" I may tell the hon. Member that I am not aware of any such representation."

Sri K. Kunhi Mohamed Shafee :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that many of these societies have suffered losses due to their having been compelled by the Supply Department to keep reserve stocks of grain for a number of months and they had to pay a large amount by way of interest to the Government on this account and that the loss has been incurred by them on account of these reasons? "

The Hon. Sri D. Sanjivayya :—" No, Sir, no such compulsion has been made by the Government. In fact, the societies were given full discretion and the option whether to run the shops or not."

Voting by show of hands in Panchayat Board Elections.

* 595 *Q.*—Sri K. Venkaiah : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representations have been made to the Government against the open voting system in Panchayat Board Elections ; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken?

The Hon. Sri N. Sankara Reddi :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) After careful consideration Government have decided to adhere to their previous decision to hold elections to class II panchayats by the simple method of voting by show of hands which is least expensive and best suited for such panchayats."

Sri K. Venkaiah :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have received any reports regarding murders and quarrels among the villagers during the course of the elections? "

The Hon. Sri N. Sankara Reddi :—" Only a few complaints were received but no murders have taken place."

Sri V. Sri Krishna :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that due to this system of election there had been widespread fraud and corruption among the officers and even the votes were deliberately bought by public auction and owing to these things the people are feeling that the Government have been responsible for creating dissension among the villagers? "

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THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—"I am unable to answer such a vague question. However, I may tell the House that almost all the panchayats have been re-constituted and elections are almost over and very smoothly also."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that in a case which went up to the High Court, the opinion has been given that a cheap method of secret voting should be adopted in order to obviate disturbances in the village economy and will the Government devise a secret method of cheap voting?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—"The High Court has approved our system but they have opined in the manner suggested by the hon. Member."

SRI V. RAMA RAO:—"In major panchayats, the Government have recently introduced tick-marking system of voting which is tantamount to open balloting and therefore, will the Government consider reverting to the old system of secret ballot?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—"We are now experimenting upon a new system so that the people can make a marking instead of putting the paper in boxes which system requires a number of boxes."

SRI G. YELLAMANDA REDDI:—"Are the Government aware, Sir, that owing to this system of voting by show of hands, great injustice is done to the voters and the villagers are divided into parties, and also some officers count and put down the votes to the account of people in whom they are interested instead of counting them in favour of the people to whom the votes are actually cast?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—"Complaints have been received in a few places and some people have also gone to courts and after the decisions of Courts are known, necessary action will be taken against the officers who had misbehaved."

SRI P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO:—"Class II పంచాయతీలకు ఎలెక్షనులు జరిపేటప్పుడు ప్రభుత్వంవారు అవలంబించే మార్కు చేసే విధానంవల్ల వందల కొలది బాలట్ పేపర్లు అసలు మార్కు చేయబడకుండానే వట్టి బాలటు పేపర్లు పెట్టెలలో వేయబడ్డాయి. అందువల్ల ఓట్లు ఉపయోగపడకుండా పోయాయి కనుక ఈ మార్కు విధానం తీసివేసి రహస్య వోటింగు పద్ధతిని ఎలెక్షనుల జరపడము ప్రభుత్వం వారు పూర్తిగా అనుసరిస్తారా?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—"The present system also is defective; a number of ballot papers have been put on the boxes or beside the boxes and there may be cases where people may not have marked and they might have put the paper in the boxes."

SRI M. LAKSHMANASWAMY:—"Sir, May I know whether the prestige of the Government has increased by this?" 10-20 a.m.

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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, in view of the large number of hands going up, may I suggest that this sort of agitation will not explain the results of the elections one way or the other. The Government can only do its utmost to co-ordinate cheapness with secrecy, non-intimidation and correct elections. It is a very difficult matter and the whole of the scheme is only an experiment. Let us try this but when a party has lost heavily they need not worry about it and try to explain it away. It may not always indicate general opinion." (Laughter.)

SRI E. L. RAGHAVA MUDALIAR :—" Sir, is there any scope in the open voting scheme to verify the results announced by the Polling Officer? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Sir, in the open voting system the counting is done openly. The candidates and their agents will be there and it can be verified."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, may I know in how many places elections have been held and from how many places complaints have been received and what is the nature of the complaints? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Sir, elections have been held in almost all the places excepting a few. I cannot give their number but they are very few."

SRI K. VENKAIAH :—" Sir, in view of the importance of the question, I request you to allow a half hour debate on this."

MR. SPEAKER :—" We can have a half hour debate this evening."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, a half hour debate will not do. We want a complete enquiry by a Committee." (Laughter.)

Report of the Labour Officer on the closure of K. V. Kannan Cigar Factory, Cannanore.

* 596 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to place on the table of the House the reports if any of the Labour Officer of Malabar on the closure of K. V. Kannan Cigar Factory, Cannanore and on the conciliation talks conducted by the Labour Officer on the same?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The concilliation report [a] is placed on the table of the House. Other reports of the Labour Officers are confidential."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, is it a fact that the Labour Officers have been instructed to submit two reports, one for public consumption and another for action to be taken by the Government, and, if so, which of the two reports is made public? "

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[a] Printed as Appendix V on pages 547–548 infra.